THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Business dealing in the non-statutory spheres with M/s. P. J. Pipes and Vessels Ltd., Bombay and all their allied firms by M/o Commerce and its attached/subordinate offices have been banned for a period of five years commencing from 12-8-93.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The report has been examined and follow-up action, pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce, has already been taken Action Taken Report has also been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Specifically, besides banning business dealings with the firm as detailed in reply to part (b), it has also been decided to broad-base the composition of the Advance Licensing Committee/Special Imprest Licensing Committee by including representative from the Project Authority and/or Administrative Ministry concerned, where necessary.

(g) and (h) The recommendation of Rajya Sabha Committee on Government Assurances regarding an enquiry against persons/officials involved in the grant of import licences would not apply to the Ministry of Commerce as on irregularity in the grant of import licences has come to light.

Privatisation of MMTC

5314. SHRI SARDA MOHANTY :
SHRI SOM PAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to privatise the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some modalities have been finalised in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when these are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) Government have not taken any decision to privatise the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation.

US Annual Report on Foreign Trade Barrier Quantitative Restrictions

5315. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the US annual report on foreign trade barrier quantitative restrictions under negative import list and other impediments in Indo-US Trade;

(b) if so, the details of the barrier relaxation demanded therein; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Office of the United States Trade Representatives released its Annual Report or Foreign Trade Barriers on 31 March, 1994. The chapter on India alleges week intellectual property rights protection, particularly in the area of patents and enforcement of copyright; and barriers in the area of trade in goods and services which include tariffs, import licencing, quantitative restrictions, government procurement and export subsidies.